

artillery to be shot at. We have mentioned this and many of us who have spoken this evening have talked about the analogy to the United States. Could you imagine how we would respond if there was artillery fire over the Canadian border or the Mexican border? There was a point in time when that happened many years ago, and we invaded both Canada and Mexico.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I wanted to pull out the gentleman from New Jersey's (Mr. ROTHMAN) map again, because we cannot emphasize this enough. Here is little Israel surrounded by Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan on the other side of it, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Somalia, Eritrea. It is not exactly the kind of neighborhood that is very pristine and peaceful and stable to begin with. Israel would not go out aggressively and start a conflict, as the gentleman pointed out, and I want to do it again. Statehood for these countries: Syria, 1946; Iraq, 1932; Iran, 1935; Saudi Arabia, 1932; Jordan, 1946; Lebanon, 1943; Egypt, 1952. To say Israel is the interloper because of 1948 is absurd, particularly given the fact that this is such a sliver of land here.

Mr. ROTHMAN. My colleague makes such a wonderful point. The Israelis are outnumbered 39 to one, some extraordinary number like 325 million Arabs and close to 6 million Israelis, most of them Jews, some Christians, some Israeli Arabs, outnumbered 39 to one. There is no oil in tiny little Israel. None. Tiny little Israel in a sea of other nations. Why do they focus so much attention on Israel? Why do they not just give their own people in Saudi Arabia, it is a monarchy, a kingdom, why do they not give their people democracy?

How about in Iraq? We know they are a dictatorship under Saddam Hussein. Why does he not give his people democracy and freedom? In Iran they have the mullahs, the religious council who are dictators themselves. Even over an elected Iranian president, the religious council overrules the elected officials. Why do they not give their people freedom?

The same as Syria with a totalitarian regime. Syria, who by the way has 45,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. They are occupying Lebanon, Syria is. But why does the world focus attention on the tiny little only democracy in the entire Middle East, Israel?

Well, you know that saying when you have trouble at home you try to distract the locals by creating a bogeyman somewhere else. Rather than have the people living in these oppressive totalitarian countries fight against their totalitarian dictatorial rulers, they say all of your problems are caused by the tiny little Jewish state all these miles away who we outnumber 39 to one. It would be laughable if it were not such a horrible terrible tragedy.

America needs to talk to the Arab world and tell them, if you think the

lynch pin to peace in the Middle East is settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, then tell the Palestinians to accept statehood, the statehood that has been offered to them for 55 years, or at least to sit down at the negotiating table after having said, yes, we are prepared to live in peace next to the Jewish State of Israel. Then the Arab world can get the peace it says it needs before they then can free their own people. Of course, that is ridiculous.

These Arab dictatorships, monarchies, totalitarian regimes throughout the Middle East they can free their people right now, but they will not. They would rather distract them with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If there needs to be pressure, it needs to be put on the Arab regimes to force the Palestinians to give their own people a state by agreeing to live next to Israel.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman. I want to yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) for closing remarks and also I am ready to close.

I think that in my final words that we need to stand with our ally, Israel. We need to understand that they have the right to defend themselves, and we need to have that message heard in the Middle East that we believe that Israel does have this right and is acting accordingly.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I think by definition every day we wake up we live in historical times. In this Chamber where we speak, it is the oldest. We are as America the oldest democracy literally in the history of the world. Many people do not know, but the law givers of the world, the law givers of the world watch us in this Chamber. In fact, the greatest law giver in the history of the world is the gentleman in the center of the Chamber, Moses.

We are part of history as we speak here tonight and as we take action as Americans, as a Congress and our ally, Israel, takes action this evening. And I think the purpose of different Members from throughout the country getting together this evening to speak about this issue is to talk about our concern. That as much as we hope and we pray and we work towards Colin Powell's efforts for a cease fire, which again we were completely united in and support for, at that same time we urge Colin Powell and particularly, obviously, the President who Colin Powell works for, that the President understand that we are listening to him. We are supportive of him in the efforts against terrorism. But to stop Israel, to attempt to stop Israel from rooting out terrorism is sending a wrong message to terrorists.

It is saying that terrorism succeeds, that terrorist actions will get the United States to do things against its allies; that you can bomb us; you can suicide bomb us; you can sniper attack bomb us; you can kill our children, our women at sacred events in the most inhumane conceivable things and force

us to do things. And that is not the message that I believe President Bush has sent to the world nor can we send to the world.

We need to be supportive of Israel and its efforts to eliminate terrorism as they were of us, as the rest of the world was of us, as all Americans are with us. And I urge the President to continue in those efforts in the coming days.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for their leadership on this issue.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his stepfather.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 10.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1222. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 89 River Street in Hoboken, New Jersey, as the "Frank Sinatra Post Office Building", to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 1499. An act to provide assistance to small business concerns adversely impacted by the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes to the Committee on Small Business.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of